(d) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to exempt sugar from the purview of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 or exempt the smaller units from the release mechanism.

Construction of FCI godowns at Jiribam

483. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) by when construction work of FCI godown at Jiribam would be completed;

(b) the amount released so far for the purpose;

(c) whether it is a fact that weight bridge of FCI has not been constructed even now at Jiribam; and

(d) if so, how the weighing of foodgrains is done there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The construction work of godowns at Jiribam has been entrusted to the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) as a deposit work.

(b) Rs. 60.08 lacs have been deposited with the CPWD so far by FCI.

(c) and (d) Finalisation of tenders has been planned to synchronise the operationalisation of the weighbridge with that of the godown.

Supply of Kerosene through PDS

484. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restrict supply of Kerosene through Public Distribution System to below the poverty line population only;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the savings in subsidy as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Kerosene Oil allocated to the States/UTs by the Government of India for distribution under the PDS is meant for cooking and illumination. It is the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned to distribute it among needy people in a judicious manner.